

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT REQUIRED FINDINGS FOR
ADDENDUM TO THE FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE SANTA MARGARITA DROUGHT RELIABILITY PROJECT**

I. BACKGROUND AND BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The County of San Luis Obispo has applied for Proposition 50 grant funding for the Santa Margarita Emergency Intertie Project (Project). The Project location, project description and environmental impacts are discussed in this and one other EIR Addendum. This EIR Addendum specifically addresses a connection between the State Water Project pipeline and the community of Santa Margarita.

The Project generally consists of constructing water system improvements that will provide direct and indirect interconnection of CSA 23's water system with the following water systems:

- State Water Project (SWP)
- Atascadero Mutual Water Company (Atascadero MWC)
- Garden Farms Community Water District (Garden Farms CWD)

The water system intertie connections provided by the proposed Project will give CSA 23 physical access to multiple water supply sources that can be used to supplement or supply drinking water to the Santa Margarita community in the event of an emergency. Access to these water sources would provide system redundancy, satisfy Title 22 regulations and would enable CSA 23 to provide a safe and reliable water supply during water emergencies.

The proposed emergency interties may require water use agreements, water exchanges and/or acquisition of temporary water rights in order to provide water to CSA 23 through the interties during an emergency. Details relating to the quantity of water and agreements with the water providers are not discussed or included in the proposed Project. The Project to be funded by the grant is for the physical connections only. Details related to obtaining the water would be developed concurrently should funding be granted.

This Addendum addresses the change from a permanent connection between CSA 23 and the State Water Project (addressed in the Santa Margarita Drought Reliability SEIR) to an emergency connection between CSA 23 and the State Water Project.

CSA 23's connection to the State Water Project was evaluated in the September 2011 Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Santa Margarita Drought Reliability Project (Santa Margarita Drought Reliability SEIR), which supplemented the March 1992 State Water Project Coastal Branch Phase II Local Lines and Facilities Final Environmental Impact Report (State Water EIR).

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The Santa Margarita Drought Reliability SEIR identified significant impacts, all of which could be mitigated to a level considered less than significant (Class II). No unavoidable significant (Class I) impacts were identified for the project. The Class II impacts identified in the Santa Margarita Drought Reliability SEIR related to:

- Geology, seismicity and soils, which could be mitigated with site specific geotechnical investigations coupled with appropriate engineering design for the associated water infrastructure.
- Drainage, erosion and sedimentation, mitigated by application of standard construction period erosion control measures, followed by the development of emergency response and repair procedures for an accidental rupture, a regular inspection and maintenance program to detect possible problems with pipeline integrity.
- Air quality, mitigated by the application of standard construction period air quality protection measures.
- Noise, also mitigated by construction period noise mitigation measures.
- Biological resources, mitigated by minimizing the area of disturbance by clearly delineating the construction area on plans and in the field.
- Cultural resources, mitigated by observing standard measures to ensure that any unanticipated archaeological discoveries are treated and assessed as required by State and Federal law.

The changes to the project since the 2011 SEIR was approved constitute a minor modification of the project description. This Addendum addresses whether or not the Project, as modified, has the potential to result in a previously undisclosed significant effect on the environment.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) defines a “significant effect on the environment” as a “substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in the environment.” The Project, as proposed, would not result in any impacts to previously undisclosed resources. The proposed Project will require the same area of disturbance within the area originally considered for the 2011 proposal.

II. FINDINGS FOR PREPARATION OF THE ADDENDUM

The Board of Supervisors makes the following findings with respect to the applicability of the September 2011 Santa Margarita Drought Reliability Project Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report:

1. Subsequent changes or additions proposed in the project after certification of the Final EIR for the Project do not require important revisions of the Final EIR because there are no new significant impacts not considered in the Final EIR for the Project.

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2. Substantial changes have not occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the Project is being undertaken, and there are no new significant environmental impacts not covered in a previous EIR.
3. No new information of substantial importance has become available which would demonstrate the following:
 - a. The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed previously in the Final EIR;
 - b. Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the Final EIR;
 - c. Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project; or
 - d. Mitigation measures or alternatives which were not previously considered in the Final EIR would substantially lessen one or more significant effects of the environment.
4. Only minor additions and changes have been addressed in the Project's Addendum, and these changes supply the additional technical information necessary to make the Project Final Supplemental EIR adequate for the Project.